



July 31, 2006

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Telecommunications and Energy
One South Station
Boston, MA 02110

To Whom It May Concern:

As a resident of Attleboro and a customer of Comcast, I strongly oppose Verizon's application for statewide franchising of their cable services.

I have been involved with my local community on a number of levels for many years. It is no secret that by submitting this application, Verizon does not want to have to negotiate with local boards. Why would they not want to have to be subject to local approval? The answer is very simple. They think that they have the right to waltz into any community that they want without having to bargain with that community like other cable providers in the state must do. This way, Verizon does not have to bother contributing to the community in any way. No money for schools, programs, community events or anything else that could potentially assist a community and the residents that they want to serve.

I am not pretending that I do not understand the dynamics behind this, the potential for competition, the supposed benefit to consumers, but I also understand the tremendous negative impact allowing Verizon to avoid local negotiations would have on this community. If Verizon wants to offer cable services in this community, it should be subject to negotiations with local boards.

It is for the above-state reasons that I am respectfully requesting that you deny Verizon's application for statewide franchising of their cable services.

Sincerely,

William E. Oster

William E. Oster
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North Attleboro, MA 02760